

October 2009

Altoona District Newsletter

Dennis L. Otto, District Superintendent

PASSING THE WHAT?

H1N1 (dare I use the politically incorrect name...Swine Flu) is in the news nearly every day. I want to deal with two sides of this, the theological and then the practical. On the theological side, my contribution is simple. For the last 50 years or so we have had unprecedented medicines that kept many diseases and maladies in check. The diseases and infections that for human history made it clear that we are daily dependent upon God were kept in check by medical advances. We all enjoyed the illusion that we were in control. We lost the age old wisdom regarding the fragility of life.

Now more infections are resistant to our best medicines and more diseases seem to be unchecked. We find it disarming to think that our help is in the name of the Lord, not in a pill or shot. It is in our nature as humans to think we can build security (read Genesis 11, for example). Then come reminders that we are not in control and our best efforts still make us vulnerable to what we cannot see, understand or defeat.

"God is our refuge, a very present help in time of trouble." Follow your doctor's advice regarding what vaccines to take, of course. Follow the directions for avoiding unnecessary exposure to diseases. Practice good sanitary hygiene in social settings, but recognize that security is in God.

Now let's talk about the practical concerns regarding H1N1 and other contagious ailments. It seems to me that we can fail in two ways; taking it too seriously or not taking it seriously enough. Recently I saw a picture of a priest with mask and gloves administering the sacrament. That seems in most cases to be very excessive. On the other hand, we should be wise in what we say and do as congregations. Several areas of concern I have heard are:

Should we tell people to say home if they are sick?

- Of course, many grew up thinking they should come to church unless at death's door. People need the permission of church leadership to stay home if they have conditions that compromise their health when flu is prevalent in the area. (Can you take DVD's of worship to them with healthy visitors?)

Passing the Peace

- If members have colds or are recovering from the flu remind them to show concern for others by not hugging or shaking hands. (Every pastor has greeted at the back door and been offered a hand into which a worshiper has just sneezed!) One can greet without touching. Jam those hands in your pockets, smile and say hello. Explain your actions if you need to, but most people will greatly appreciate you passing the peace without passing the cold or flu.

Communion

- Many folks express concern about the sacrament that is out of proportion to the caution they exercise in social exchanges. The GBOD site has a great article on communion by Benedict and Burton-Edwards. It is worth reading for pastors and those with responsibilities in worship.
- One practice that should be discouraged is that of having each person break off a piece of bread. The pastor or one assisting should break and hand each person the bread. This person should wash hands well before serving. This practice means that only one person's clean hands are in the bread. When giving the bread they should not touch the hands of those coming for communion

(cont. on page 8)

Altoona District Office
1228 A
Pleasant Valley Blvd.
Altoona, PA 16602

814-942-9220
814-942-9250 fax
1-800-842-5923

Office hours:
Monday thru Thursday
8:30am – 1:30pm

Dennis Otto
District Superintendent
dotto@cpcumc.org

Mary Schnaubelt
Administrative
Assistant
marys@cpcumc.org

Birthdays and Anniversaries



10/17

17

/28

Canankamp – 10/30



For October
Remember these pastors
in prayer.

Lesley

Trans Run

Grazierville

Unity

Break has been
provided for you by
Methodist Church.
Runs twice each,
10am and 3pm,
every Friday.
Seeds of hope in
Pennsylvania.
Call 800-947-7629 or 94.7 in Altoona,
PA, or visit us at
dship.org

Central Announces 12th HUB

Mission Central is proud to announce
the birth of its 12th HUB
on Friday, September 17th 2009.
A covenant was signed between
JMC (Wellsboro District)
and Mission Central.

Provided capable leadership,
volunteers, unfolding local and
regional outreach, a variety of
fundraising operations, generosity
of spirit, and many God Moments
at each of our HUBs.



Altoona District Mission Central HUB
1738 North Branch Avenue, Altoona



HUB Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
1pm-3pm

Other days by
appointment.
Call Beth Teeter
at 932-6955

Current Needs:

- School Kits
School Bags, Rulers
- Health Kits
Hand towels, wash clothes, bath soap
- Layette Kits
Cloth diapers, sleepers, diaper pins
- Cleaning Buckets
Clothes line
- Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers!

Cokesbury Tent Sale

Cokesbury Bookstore in Harrisburg will be holding a tent sale from Thurs., Oct 15 to Sat., Oct 17, during regular store hours. This is a warehouse clearance sale consisting of a truckload of books and church supplies shipped to Cokesbury especially for this event. All tent sale merchandise will be steeply discounted.

Cokesbury is located at 4223 Union Deposit Road in Harrisburg, just off I-83. Store hours are Monday through Friday, 10am to 6pm, and Saturday, 10am to 3pm. For more information please call the store at 877-577-8541.

Bishops Retreat for Clergy 2010

Are you challenged as you navigate your congregation through a sea of change? Have no fear...Gil is coming near! Gil Rendle, Senior Consultant with the Institute for Clergy and Congregational Excellence, will be the featured speaker for 2010's Bishop's Retreat for Our Clergy Family.

January 18-20, 2010

Willow Valley Resort, Lancaster

Visit the Conference website at
www.cpcumc.org for further details.

MARK & SAVE THIS DATE!

On Monday, October 26, 2009, an event entitled "Hidden Problem: The Church & Internet Pornography," will be held at the Camp Hill United Methodist Church in Camp Hill, PA from 9am to 3:30pm. Sponsored by a broad base of denomination judicatories, this event is especially provided for judicatory staff, persons responsible for boundary training, committees dealing with ordination and/or intervention issues, and pastors. The two presenters will be the Rev. Dr. Mark Laaser who is the Director of Faithful & True Ministries (www.faithfulandtrueministries.com) in Eden Prairie, Minnesota and nationally recognized for his work in the area of sexual addiction, and the Rev. Dr. Stephen Treat, the Director of the Council for Relationships (www.councilforrelationships.org) in Philadelphia. More details and registration materials will follow in the upcoming months.

What's happening in the Altoona District Churches?

- **Mount Moriah UMC** will hold their annual homemade, All-You-Can- Eat Ham Pot Pie Dinner on Saturday, October 10th from 4pm to ?. Adults \$6.50, children 4-12 \$4.00 and children 3 and under are free. For directions or more information call 312-0913.
- **Warriors Mark UMC** will hold their annual OctoberFest on Saturday, October 24th, 9am-3pm. There will be crafts from various vendors, soup sale, bake sale and food for lunch. Additional crafters are welcome. For more information or to reserve a table for \$10 call Carole French at 632-3812.
- **Christ Community UMC** United Methodist Women will host a used book/soup and sandwich sale on Saturday, October 24th, 11am -3pm. Proceeds will benefit both local and world missions. Christ Community is located at 5715 Roselawn Avenue, Altoona.
- **Juniata UMC** is planning a musical evening of Broadway show tunes, other fun songs and perhaps some short comedy routines on Saturday, October 31st at 7:00pm. Following the program, dessert and beverages will be served. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased in the church office or at the door. The church is located at 808 North 4th Street in Altoona.

If you would like to have events from your church published in the District Newsletter please email information to Mary at marys@cpcumc.org

The requests will be posted on a first come first served basis due to space availability. All information must be received before the 20th of each month.

Important Worker's Compensation Insurance Information:

Effective August 1, 2009, the United Methodist Worker's Compensation Trust has changed to a new provider, INSERVCO, to process claims for that program. As of that date, all churches are required to post a new Worker's Compensation Claim Notice, and also submit their claims to Gary Smith, Conference Treasurer. Please go to the conference website at www.cpcumc.org and click on the Finance Office link to print out both the Poster and also claim filing information and forms. If at any time you do have questions, please feel free to contact the Finance Office at 1-866-227-6529.

Attention Pastors:

**Tuesday, October 13th
9am-3:30pm
At Camp Greene Hills**

**Spend a Day Apart with the
District Superintendent**

Lunch will be provided
for only \$5.00

Please contact the
District Office
at 942-9220
with your reservations.

Exploration 2009

An event for high school seniors through young adults age 24 considering a call to ordained ministry as a deacon or elder in the United Methodist Church.

This national gathering will be held November 17-19 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dallas, TX.

The theme is "**Hear, Learn, Serve, Go**" taken from Galatians 5:25.

Participants may now register via the EXPLORATION website at www.gbhem.org/exploration

The \$150 registration fee – subsidized by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry – includes room, meals, and program costs.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to Dallas.

2009 Fall Retreat for CPC Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members
Theme: "Vitality of Small Churches"

Who: Rev. Dr. Lewis Parks, speaking
What: New Material for the Small Church of Today
When: November 4th, Wednesday – November 6th, Friday
Where: Camp Hebron – 975 Camp Hebron Road,
Halifax, PA 17032 or camphebron.org/home

Registration: 3:00pm to 5:00pm on Nov. 4th and departure will be at 1:00pm on Nov. 6th.
Please bring your Bible, notepad, pen or pencil, pictures or wooden cut-outs of your church for display, also any of your textbooks for exchange for the newer classmates. You will also need your own personal items but all linens are supplied; this is a hotel setting with beds and private bath in each room.

Price - \$135.00, Commuter fee is \$75.00.
Single rooms available upon request for \$25.00 extra per night.

During the afternoon of Nov. 5th there will be the opportunity for horseback trail rides for an additional fee of \$15.00. If you would like to bring your bike, or walking shoes there are also trails and roads to utilize.

CEU – 1.5

Remove and mail form and check to
Pastor Sandra Brant
PO Box 345
Ulster, PA 18850-0345

Date of event _____

Name _____ Affiliation – LP ____ AM ____ Other ____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____ District _____

Choice of Roommate _____ Single Room _____ (\$50.00 for event)

Horseback trail ride _____ (\$15.00 Please add the extra cost to your registration)

Any dietary or physical limitations _____

\$135.00

Please make checks payable to **CPCUMC**

CLERGY TAX AND COMPENSATION CONFERENCE

Here is an outstanding opportunity to obtain current tax information and get a handle on your personal finances at the same time. There is something for everyone whether you're a new clergy person, retiree or pastor who has "been there." The Stewardship Foundation is pleased to present a new **Clergy Tax and Compensation Conference** for clergy and retired clergy, their spouses, and those considering the ministry.



Rev. Dr. Wayne C. Barrett, CFP, President and Executive Director of the United Methodist

Foundation of Michigan, well-known author and expert in the area of clergy taxes will conduct the Conference **Thursday, October 22, 2009 at the Grace United Methodist Church, 45 South West Street, Carlisle, PA 17013-2837.**

We'll start at 8:45 AM with registration/fellowship and conclude at 3:00 PM. Materials, refreshments and lunch provided. Continuing Education Credits available for those who qualify. One session will be devoted to **Clergy Taxes** and one session will be devoted to **Personal Finances** for clergy. **BONUS!** Stay for an extra half hour (3:00 – 3:30 PM for a special presentation by Robert M. Wallace, SPHR, President, The Wallace Group, LLC – "Risk Management – The Human Resource Side for the Local Church."

Registration is \$50 per person. Go to our website (umstewardship.org), click on events for the form, register on line, e-mail sfcpa@cpcumc.org, call us at 1-800-272-0113. You may also complete and return the form below.

*Presented by The United Methodist Stewardship Foundation of Central Pennsylvania
303 Mulberry Drive, Mechanicsburg PA 17050-3141
717-766-7343; 1-800-272-0113; 717-766-1673 FAX; sfcpa@cpcumc.org; umstewardship.org*

CLERGY TAX AND COMPENSATION CONFERENCE

Title _____ Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Church Affiliation _____ District _____

(Please use one registration form per person. Make as many copies as you need.)

Registration fee must be enclosed with form (\$50 per registration)

I am applying for CEU credits _____ YES _____ NO (.5 credits available to those who qualify)

Make checks payable to: The Stewardship Foundation

Mail to: 303 Mulberry Drive, Suite 300

Mechanicsburg PA 17050-3141

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 18, 2009

Multi-Media Technology in Worship for the Church Volunteer 101

This online workshop is being offered again on October 19-30, 2009 through the Institute for Discipleship at www.beadisciple.com
Because of the popularity of this workshop, the first session filled early. Therefore, we are offering it again right away. Don't miss your chance! Enroll early!

Rev. John Zimmerman brings his 20+ years of pastoral ministry and his gift of implementing multi-media technology in worship to this seminar. Students will be introduced to the hardware and software in worship technology and discover their ability to plan, create and implement technology in a worship setting. The workshop will also help the student learn about worship itself and the role of technology in design, appropriateness and excellence. Special consideration will be given to budget and a low-cost approach to technology implementation. This workshop is designed for the church volunteer or pastor who would classify themselves as "beginners" in multi-media experience. It is offered as a 10-day schedule with students completing daily assignments at times convenient to them. The cost of the workshop is \$75 and qualifies for 1 CEU. Enroll today at www.beadisciple.com. Questions can be directed to John Zimmerman by email at john@corryfirst.org

Youth News!

- **Great Escape 2009- Living Above the World**
This conference wide youth event provides youth an opportunity to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the world and reconnect with their peers. November 20-22 at the Radisson Penn Harris, Camp Hill. For more information contact Warren Bevacqua at 717-766-7441 or warren@cpcumc.org
- **New Conference Youth Web Site** – Check out the new Youth Spot...the spot for youth ministry in Central PA. This totally redesigned website will feature quality resources for youth ministry, fun websites for youth, upcoming youth events, the most current happenings in youth ministry, discussion groups and much, much more! For more information visit <http://ccymspot.com>

Operation S.O.S **(Support Our Soldiers)**

Please help support this annual campaign to help make the holidays a little brighter for American troops who are stationed overseas.

Packages will be sent in early December so contributions are being collected now thru November 18th at Smith Furniture in Duncansville. Additional drop-off locations are, Ace Hardware in Duncansville, First Commonwealth Bank 3rd Avenue in Duncansville, Gem's Styling Salon in Roaring Spring, The Flower Connection in Claysburg, and the Carpet Depot in Claysburg.

A list of items is attached to this newsletter.

If you have any questions please contact Gary Clare at 695-5635 or email smithfurniture@verizon.net

Passing the What? (cont. from pg. 1) A Message from the District Superintendent)

- Instructions should be given to dip “just the edge of the bread” in the juice and the cup should be tilted toward the worshipers so they can see when it is dipped.
- Instructions should be given every time communion is celebrated. It can be done quickly and efficiently in a way that does not detract from the service. It is, in fact, an act of hospitality to explain how we do what we do.
- Most worshipers have touched doors, pews, bulletins, etc. by the time they are even thinking about communion. So communion does not expose them to anything they would not be exposed to already.

I wish you good health!
Dennis L. Otto
Superintendent, Altoona District

Dennis's Calendar – October

- **October 1 – Cabinet Meeting**
- **October 4 – Charge Conferences, 1pm – 7pm**
- **October 5-6 – BOOM Retreat at Mt Asbury**
- **October 8 – Charge Conference**
- **October 13 – Day Apart with DS at Greene Hills**
- **October 13 – Charge Conferences 6:30pm-9pm**
- **October 14 – Charge Conferences 6:30pm- 9pm**
- **October 15 – Matthew 28 Initiative Gathering**
- **October 18 – Charge Conferences 1pm- 9pm**
- **October 20-22 – Cabinet Meeting**
- **October 22 – District Office Closed**
- **October 25 – Charge Conferences 6pm-8pm**
- **October 26 – “Hidden Problem” Seminar**
- **October 28 – Charge Conferences – 6:30pm-9pm**
- **October 29 – Charge Conferences – 6:30pm-9pm**
- **October 31- Charge Conferences – 9:30am – 3pm**

If you need to contact District Superintendent, Dennis Otto, please call:

(814) 942-9220 Office

(814) 696-2901 Home

(570) 971-3132 Cell